

# AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

## LOUISIANA'S TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS

### BAYOU LAFOURCHE BRIDGE AT LAROSE



*The \$30 million replacement of the existing LA 310 pontoon bridge with a new vertical lift bridge at the more efficient LA 657 extension to LA 308 will remove a bottleneck for Louisiana's Energy Highway from Port Fourchon to US 90.*

#### Notable Project Facts

- Can be let to construction in 120 days
- Project will be delayed several years in the regular highway program without ARRA funding
- The existing pontoon bridge is not well armored against the affects of hurricane winds and tidal surge, making evacuation and emergency services difficult
- This project, in combination with the ongoing upgrade of LA 1 from Port Fourchon to Golden Meadow, will provide a substantially more efficient freight corridor to access Louisiana's offshore oil and gas resources

#### Why do we need this?

**Highway 1 has been called “Louisiana’s Energy Highway”** because 18% of the nation’s energy supply flows through Port Fourchon and the roadway provides the port with support services for more than half of the offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico. The highway is vulnerable to hurricane winds and surge—parts of LA 1 were under 8 feet of water during and after Hurricane Gustav in 2007. At Larose, the existing crossing of Bayou Lafourche is via a pontoon bridge which opens 400 times a month and is vulnerable to surges cause by hurricanes. The new vertical lift bridge will relocate the crossing to the LA 657 alignment built in 2004 to LA 3225 and the high-level bridge crossing the Intra-coastal Waterway on LA 308.

#### A solid investment...

**Without funding from ARRA, this project will be delayed until Fiscal Year 2010-2011.** The project is the first movable bridge built in the coastal zone of Louisiana since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The price of specialty mechanical work and machined parts has increased significantly in the ensuing time, causing difficulty in constructing this much needed project within the scope of our regular Federal Bridge Replacement Program.

The project builds upon and enhances the effective route connectivity with elevated LA 1 project from Port Fourchon to Golden Meadow and will provide greater surety in accessibility during and after extreme weather events.

#### Project Selection for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

La DOTD, in accordance with the parameters set forth by President Barack Obama’s economic stimulus, has identified projects which are “shovel ready” and can be let to construction in a very short timeframe. 50% of the ARRA funding must be obligated within 120 days of apportionment of the funds. Failure to obligate this funding within the prescribed time will result in reallocation of the balance of funds to other States.

